

IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

COPY of Treasury Letter, dated 1st April, 1913, respecting
the Conditions on which a Grant will be made to the
Society, from the Development Fund.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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21300/12.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
1st April 1913.

SIR,

THE Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have had before them the report of the Development Commission upon the application by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for an advance by way of grant from the Development Fund.

The Commissioners have recommended that an advance of 2,000*l.* by way of grant be made to the Society to relate to the period up to 1st July 1913, in aid of its current work, and they are prepared to recommend further assistance by way of grant in future years upon the following terms and conditions:—

- (1) That the Society agree to add to its governing body and retain there so long as it receives aid from the Development Fund eleven persons nominated by the Development Commissioners;
- (2) That the Society agree to make as soon as practicable any necessary alterations in its rules, consequent on the above condition; and meanwhile to invite the additional members as soon as nominated to meetings of the Society's governing body, and to treat them in all respects as members of it so far as possible pending those alterations;
- (3) That the Society undertake that any co-operative Societies which engage in co-operation other than that of a purely agricultural nature (such as the purchase and sale of groceries and other non-agricultural requirements) shall not be admitted to affiliation with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; and that any existing Societies, as, for instance, the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, which having previously taken up such business are continuing to engage in it on the 1st January next, shall on that date cease to be affiliated with the Organisation Society. It is understood that contributory affiliation is a condition of receiving advice and assistance from the Society—such assistance being, of course, of an entirely non-pecuniary nature;
- (4) That the Society undertake to delete from the rules which it issues to Societies formed by and affiliated with it the rule requiring such Societies to federate with the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society.

My Lords concur in the above recommendation, and, on learning that the Society accept the conditions attached to the grant. They will give effect to it in due course.

I am to explain with regard to the first condition above recited that it is proposed as an interim measure to nominate two members of the Development Commission, Mr. Vaughan Nash, C.V.O., C.B., the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, and Mr. A. D. Hall, F.R.S., and also Lord Basil Blackwood, one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Development Commission: Their Lordships trust that to the three gentlemen above referred to there may be added as soon as possible on the nomination of the Development Commissioners, three members representative of the various interests in Ireland concerned in the administration of the grant. It is the hope of the Development Commission that it may be possible gradually to appoint the eleven nominated members of the Committee, in which event Messrs. Nash and Hall and Lord Basil Blackwood would cease to serve.

My Lords note that the Society has already given an assurance that it will take no share whatever in controversies involving political partizanship, whether through its agents, spokesmen, or printed publications.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. L. HEATH.

The Secretary,

Irish Agricultural Organisation Society,

The Plunkett House,

84, Merrion Square, Dublin.